1942(?)

~~At the present time there are~~ During the current year, in attendance at the Sir George Williams College, which occupies 30 classrooms, science laboratories and art studios on the second and third floors of this building, ~~1250~~ 3300 students whose education, for the most part, would now be at a standstill if it were not for this institution. That, in brief, is the story of the Sir George Williams College of the Montreal Y.M.C.A., — a story which I cannot possibly tell adequately in the five minutes allotted to me to-day by your chairman.

Please believe me, ladies and gentlemen, ~~1250~~ 3300 is a large number of students. Whatever else it may be, the Sir George Williams College is not a small educational institution. The fact that this is a large building, and that it houses the Central Branch, the "Y" Residence and the Metropolitan Headquarters frequently causes people to assume that any College which confines itself to the second and third floors cannot be very large. But I would ask you to imagine a two-story College building set on a nice green campus somewhere, with trees around it and its own roof over its head — imagine that two-story building large enough to contain 30 classrooms and lecture halls, including 3 science laboratories, 3 art studios and a suite of offices — and you have quite a College building. That is the present Sir George Williams College building — without, of course, the campus.

No longer ago than last week a prospective evening student said to me: "This College is a new thing, is it not? I never heard of it until a few months ago." As one whose chief task during the past ~~eight~~ 12 years has been to tell the people of Montreal about the Sir George Williams College, I felt a deep sense of frustration as I gave him my

answer. No, the Sir George Williams College is not a new thing. Some aspects of its work are new; its present name is only 19 years old; but the institution itself is now in the 69th. year of its history.

In 1873 the Montreal Y.M.C.A instituted its formal educational work. This was done in response to very definite educational needs, particularly in the area of vocational training. The Y.M.C.A. pioneered commercial education in this City, has been providing commercial education since 1873 and is still doing it. New? New only in the sense that, as this City has grown, as society has changed in the past 70 years, the formal educational work of the Y.M.C.A. (now the Sir George Williams College) has changed and evolved with it.

As the decades have passed, new educational needs have become apparent in our community. No longer is commercial education, either day or evening, the whole, or even the most important part of the Sir George Williams College. Very early in the 70 years of our institutional life it was discovered that many people who leave school without having completed the elementary grades live to regret it. For them general educational classes were organized which are still included in the Evening Grammar School. This was followed some years later, by a standard four-year Evening High School, still the only one of its kind in the Province of Quebec, so far as we are aware. This Evening High School has, during the past few decades, provided a second chance for an education for thousands of young men and women now occupying positions of importance in this City, and has sent into the universities and thence into the professions of law, dentistry, medicine, theology, nursing, teaching, engineering (and business) dozens of men and women who, without

the opportunity it provided, would not be making the contributions to society they are now able to make.

The Sir George Williams College does not conduct a Day High School or Elementary School — in the belief that it would therein be duplicating, to too great an extent, the work of the public educational system.

Of more recent origin, but already ~~almost ten~~ 13 years old are two other units of the College — the School of Art in which is given to day and evening students instruction in drawing, painting, modelling and sculpture and other aspects of the fine arts, either as training for leisure time activity or for their commercial applications — and the Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce, now the largest single unit in the College, and with its ~~1,000~~ 1300 day and evening students constituting an enrollment of college-grade students larger than that of three-quarters of the Colleges and universities in the Dominion of Canada. The curriculum in this Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce, leading to the bachelor's degree in these three fields in both day and evening divisions, has been formulated only after the most intensive study of all that is best in modern higher education. It is our firm belief that our institution is making a contribution to this community not only in providing college education to hundreds of men and women who, otherwise, would not be able to get it, anywhere, but in providing a type of college education which is different in its interpretation of life, in its relevance to the every-day world in which people live, and in its orientation about the needs and purposes of the individual student.

In this unit, as in all others of the College, the educational, vocational and personal guidance of individual students is considered

one of the major tasks of instructors and of the executive staff. Indeed, for ~~the past 15~~ many years the Sir George Williams College ~~has been~~ was the only formal educational institution in this province with trained full-time guidance officers attached to its staff. Throughout that time vocational and educational guidance has been one of its major contributions to formal education. Throughout that time, I may say with perfect propriety because I have been taking only an insignificant part in it myself, a job of guidance has been done which has yet to be matched in this part of our Dominion at best.

Every singly unit of the Sir George Williams College has been inaugurated only after the most thorough study of the educational needs of people in the community and of the resources which are available to meet those needs. In this talk of mine, to-day, I have attempted to confine myself to this aspect of the case entirely, and to leave untouched, except in inference, the philosophy of education which we try to have permeate the work of the College.

I may have sounded unqualifiedly enthusiastic about the Sir George Williams College. I am — although no one is more aware than I how frequently our accomplishment falls short of our purposes and our hopes. It is easy to become enthusiastic about our faculty of ~~95~~ 110 instructors. It is particularly easy to become enthusiastic about our ~~900~~ 2300 evening students -- young men and women, boys and girls, who work hard all day earning their living, yet who have the courage to give two or three full evenings each week, eight months in the year, to the continuance of their education. There is, for instance, one young manyat present completing third year college work in our evening division, who has been regular

attendance with us for the past nine years. Away back in 1928-9 this student completed Grade VII work in the Evening Grammar School; the next four years saw him through the successive grades of the Evening High School; during the next three years he completed two years of College work and secured his Associate in Commerce Diploma; and the ~~year after~~ next year he ~~will be~~ graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Commerce. All at night, and all while he earned his living in the office of one of our Montreal Firms. Even in the ~~eight~~ 13 short years I have been on the College staff I have seen such people come and go, and I know that were I a business man looking for an employee, or weighing the possibilities of a man for promotion, I would be willing to gamble on anyone who would do that.

That kind of a person needs the Sir George Williams College. At the present moment there are ~~1250~~ 3300 persons who think they need the Sir George Williams College. Whether or not the Sir George Williams College is accomplishing its objectives with these ~~1250~~ 3300 students, the fact that there <u>are</u> ~~1250~~ 3300 students at least proves the presence of a community need which someone must meet.

The Sir George Williams College is attempting to meet these needs in Greater Montreal:

<u>First</u> - by providing educational opportunity not available anywhere else in this City;

<u>Second</u> - by providing educational opportunity which, if also available elsewhere, is not able to accommodate all those having a need for it;

and Third - by providing an educational opportunity which will be different, and in which the fundamental purposes of the Young Men's Christian Association may be given practical effect in the lives of people.

The moving force behind the Sir George Williams College is that behind the Young Men's Christian Association, -- a profound belief in the worth of the individual person and of the value to society of a life richly and fully lived.

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS COLLEGE

In many respects the academic year 1941-42 in the Sir George Williams College has been a remarkable one. The fact that it brought the largest enrollment in the history of the College, 3140 individual students, is only one of the reasons for this. Substantial qualitative progress has been made, also, in an effort to have staff and equipment keep pace with the needs of a rapidly expanding student body.

Attendance at classes in the College during the academic year reached a total of 500,575 student hours, in addition to library attendance and other individual services of some 67,000, and participation of 18,900 in the extra-curricular activities of more than 50 organized student groups. There have been more than 100 professors, teachers and supervisors on the College staff, in addition to 12 laboratory assistants and demonstrators.

Increasing recognition of the College in academic and industrial circles is being achieved as larger numbers of its graduates attain posts of responsibility or study for advanced degrees at Canadian and American universities. Of the 105 graduates of the Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce up to 1941, 31 are enrolled for higher degrees in the professional schools and graduate faculties of universities, 20 are known to be on active service, and 11 have become secretaries of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. At the close of the current year 47 bachelor's degrees were granted, 51 Associate's diplomas, and 3 diplomas in Association Science.

In various ways the College has endeavoured to aid Canada's war effort during the past year. The Students' Basic Military Training Corps has had an efficient year's training. More than 100 members of His Majesty's forces have studied without tuition fee in the regular courses of the College, as part of the vast programme of war services now being conducted by the Canadian Y.M.C.A. at hundreds of points in this country and overseas. Some members of the faculty have given part-time service in war research. Students and faculty have co-operated in numerous war service efforts, in the College, in the community, and in co-ordination with those in

other Canadian colleges and universities. Moreover, it has been impressed upon us many times, how important a war service task Sir George Williams College is able to perform by merely continuing to have an evening division - an evening division in which working people may secure the types of scientific, technical, commercial and administrative training so sorely needed in the greatly expanded war-time industrial structure. No less than 2518 of the 3140 students this year have been in the evening division.

Registration in the various units of the College has been as follows:

	Day	Evening	Total
Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce	193	1001	1194
High School	-	594	594
Elementary School	-	74	74
Business School	360	776	1136
Art School	69	73	142
Total -	622	2518	3140